

Whereas, it is with tremendous respect and admiration that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to acknowledge a milestone event in the history and work of one of the Show-Me State's most illustrious not-for-profit organizations, Operation Breakthrough of Kansas City; and

Whereas, on Wednesday, September 24, 2003, Operation Breakthrough will launch an expansion project which will combine renovation of the existing facility, a former JC Penney store that's been its home since 1981, with new construction of classroom space to enable better service for the 450 children who attend daily and the more than 100 additional children which the organization will be able to enroll; and

Whereas, Operation Breakthrough's \$8.2 million expansion project will also provide the organization with the opportunity to move its health care programs to street level and then open them to the community; and

Whereas, Operation Breakthrough was founded thirty years ago when a group of working-poor parents voiced their need for child care to Sister Corita Bussanmas and Sister Berta Sailer who subsequently incorporated Operation Breakthrough as a not-for-profit agency whose initial funding came from the Model Cities Program and a grant from the Hall Family Foundation; and

Whereas, now a United Way Agency, Operation Breakthrough is currently funded by a combination of grants from Head Start, the state of Missouri, the city of Kansas City, and foundations and from private donations; and

Whereas, Operation Breakthrough primarily serves the children of impoverished and single-parent households through such important venues as Early Head Start, Head Start, before- and after-school programs, a Summer Enrichment Program, a USDA-approved Meal Program, Children's Mercy Clinic, the Harambe Center, and numerous others:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the start of a much-needed expansion project at Operation Breakthrough facilities at 31st and Troost in Kansas City and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt commendation of the nonprofit organization's stellar accomplishments and our sincerest best wishes for continued achievement now and in the future; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation at the Operation Breakthrough groundbreaking ceremony.

Offered by Speaker Catherine L. Hanaway
District No. 87

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4143, adopted September 23, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker